



Cobra Families,

Another month has come and gone here in Iraq and with our families scattered throughout the United States. It amazes me how quickly time passes here. Moving from task to task, operation to operation, it helps to take a breath and reflect on what's been accomplished and where we're heading.

We continue to untangle the twisted web of relationships and motivations that make up this insurgency. We're making headway. More and more Iraqis are taking matters into their own hands and providing information to coalition forces and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The explanation for this turn of events is simple. Hope. The Iraqis are beginning to believe in a brighter future. More importantly, they are investing their time and energy in ensuring that future comes to pass.

Fighting a counterinsurgency battle requires more thought and more psychology than brute force and ignorance. Your soldiers have quickly learned these subtle nuances and continue to impress me with their grasp of the bigger fight, and the big picture.

Our relationship with the Iraqi Army continues to grow. While most of the lessons we impart come through observation and executing missions together, we are continuing some formalized training for their officer and non-commissioned officer leadership. The only barrier we've faced is language. Soldiering, however, seems to extend beyond cultural and religious boundaries. All are men engaged in a struggle to do what is right for their country and ensure a stable environment to raise their families.

We continue to keep an offensive mindset and seek out the enemy where he hides and sleeps. The company recently conducted an air assault operation with the Iraqi Army. While some were a bit wide-eyed on their first helicopter ride (some

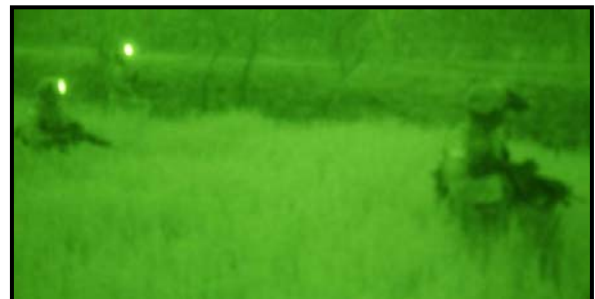
Cobras included), all acquitted themselves well. Without a doubt, when the helicopter touches the landing zone in the dead of night, this is what we signed up for. Even after being up for hours, all faces were smiling when we walked off of the objective the next afternoon, detainee in tow.

Keep looking for us in the news! We try and take a public affairs soldier on many of our missions to spread the word about the work your soldiers are doing. Cobras last aired on AFN (Armed Forces Network). AFN is televised wherever soldiers are stationed outside the continental United States.

Welcome Cobra K9 to the company team! We've picked up two handlers, SGT Brown, SGT Hollibaugh, and two explosives dogs, Mongo and Motzo. They have been an incredible addition to the team and have been invaluable in finding enemy stockpiles.



Motzo, pictured above, has become the unofficial company mascot.



Above, soldiers from 2nd platoon on a recent raid.

Next picture, Cobras and Iraqi Army soldiers uncover an IED cache near Haswah, Iraq.



PROMOTIONS

PVT to PV2

Gutierrez, Pablo PYTHON
Tilden, Jerrad VIPER

PV2 to PFC

Serra, Chase HQ Platoon

PFC to SPC

Coker, Timothy VENOM
Linck, Jacob VIPER

SPC to SGT

Hollibaugh, Clint COBRA K9

BABIES

Congratulations to SSG Rowlette and his wife Dixie, on their new baby girl Madison.

RE-ENLISTMENT

Congrats to the following soldiers for staying Army.

SPC Orr, Dustin VIPER
CPL Lopez, Abbie VIPER



Iraqi kids with soccer balls donated from B/2-8. Iraq's future.

HEROES of the WEEK

The following soldiers were recognized for outstanding performance while conducting combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These are the soldiers going above and beyond during the conduct of their duties.

PFC Bequette, Justin - VENOM
SPC Matyi, John HQ - NOW RATTLER
SGT Hollibaugh, Clint - COBRA K9
PFC Stanton, Timothy - VENOM

SNAKE NAMES EXPLAINED

You may wonder why a Bravo Company goes with the name of Cobras. Early last year, the Division underwent a transformation to modular units. The purpose was to allow higher level commanders a greater level of flexibility when designing "force packages" for theaters of operation.

Long story short, when I assumed command we were C/2-8 and later became B/2-8. Due to this company's long standing tradition and the painful loss of a treasured soldier during OIF 1 (CPL Heath Pirtle), we decided to stick with the name "COBRAS."

Platoons are as follows:

1/C/2-8 IN (Tank Platoon cross attached to B/2-8) **VENOM**

1/B/2-8 IN (Infantry PLT cross attached to C/2-8) **VIPER**

2/B/2-8 IN (Infantry) **PYTHON**

3/B/2-8 IN (Infantry) **RATTLER**

Again, if you have any questions, feel free to ask. Keep us in your thoughts. You are always in ours.

Cobras Stand Alone.

CPT Colin Brooks